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BOOK REVIEW

The Crab Spiders of Canada and Alaska: Araneae: Philodromidae and Thomisidae, by Charles D. Dondale and James H. Redner, 1978. Part 5 of The Insects and Arachnida of Canada, Publication 1663, pp. 1-255, 725 figs., 66 maps. Available from Printing and Publishing Supply and Services Canada, Hull, Quebec, Canada K1A OS9, Canada. Canada: $7.50; other countries: $9.00.

This handsome, soft-bound volume, dealing with the spider families Philodromidae and Thomisidae from north of the United States, is a striking contribution to Canadian arachnology. About half of the taxa of all temperate North America (110 of some 223 species) occur in Canada. The authors have drawn much of the data from their many papers on these spiders, but this has been materially supplemented by new appraisals, illustrations, and distribution information. The work is preceded by resumes of anatomical details and a key to the families known from north of the United States. This section, rather copiously illustrated, suggests that works on other families will follow the present volume to offer new insight into the wealthy but still only moderately exploited spider fauna of Canada. The work offers a Glossary of terms and an excellent Bibliography which will be found useful to all grades and kinds of spider students.

The philodromid crab spiders are swift runners that forage actively over ground and plant substrata. Their laterigrade aspect is less evident than that of the thomisids with which they were long placed as a subfamily. Much still remains to be learned about their natural history. The 47 species found in Canada include ten species well known in Europe and northern Palearctica and these are also long residents of North America. Two other species (*Philodromus dispar* and *Thanatus vulgaris*) are more recent immigrants brought in by trade but these are now established in North America.

The spiders of the family Thomisidae are more crablike and less active than the philodromids and excell as ambushers, easily overpowering large insects. The natural history of some of the ambushing flower spiders, notably *Misumena vatia*, which is as common in Europe as in North America, is rather well known but much still remains to

be learned about these friendly little spiders. The thomisids of Canada (about 63 species are so far known) have much in commom with those of Europe but only four species seem to be the same. The ranges of all these suggest that they are long residents of both regions.

The present work is largely a systematic review of the Canadian crab spider fauna with good keys for the various genera, succinct descriptions of each sex, and a variety of informative comments. The distribution maps are especially instructive and in some of these we find index of rarity, or wide range and coverage of such vast areas. The genitalic illustrations are printed in good size and portray in excellent fashion the distinctions between species. I have found the information of this book easy to use and believe that biologists of many persuasions and beginners as well will find it useful. Precise identification is the first step toward deeper researches into the biology of the crab spiders and it is available in this work for all North Americans.

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NOMENCLATURAL NOTE

Opinion 1119 of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature placed the names *Amaurobius* C. L. Koch, 1837 with the type species *Clubiona atrox* Latreille, and *Coelotes* Blackwall, 1841 with the type species *Clubiona saxatilis* Blackwall on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology, and placed the names *Amaurobius* C. L. Koch, 1836, *Cavator* Blackwall, 1840, *Ciniflo* Blackwall, 1840, and *Caelotes* Blackwall, 1849, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology The name Amaurobiinae is placed on the Official List of Family Group Names in Zoology, and the name Ciniflonidae on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology. (Bull. Zool. Nomencl. 35: 216-220, 1979.)